

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE  
RIVER CAMPUS STATION  
ROCHESTER 20, NEW YORK

May 3, 1956

BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Professor Lederberg:

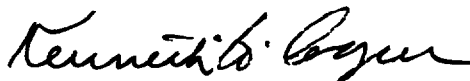
Assistant Professor Arnold Ravin is now under consideration for advancement in rank and award of tenure. Since coming here in 1953, he has played a very significant role in the development of our wholly new and quite unique elementary course in general biology, and his teaching has been excellent at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Nevertheless we are required to obtain appraisals from several widely-known biologists of the research and scholarship of each candidate for tenure, as well as their judgment of the candidate's promise of continuing development in professional stature. May I have the benefit of your help in this matter?

Within the next two weeks I must submit a recommendation concerning Assistant Professor Ravin's future at Rochester, and it would be very helpful were you to write me about him with the following questions in mind:

- 1) Does Dr. Ravin's name automatically come to mind in connection with: any notable and useful idea or interpretation that he has fathered, a specially neat research accomplishment, a consistent record of excellence in his publications?
- 2) Is Dr. Ravin's research eminence and originality sufficiently notable that you would recommend post-doctoral study with him to one of your better Ph.D. students? Would you judge him to be an attractive prospect for invitation to a symposium in microbial genetics or microbiology?
- 3) Are Dr. Ravin's knowledge, judgment and scholarly accomplishments of such order that you would recommend him as a desirable referee to the editor of one of the better known genetical or microbiological journals?
- 4) In your judgment does Dr. Ravin promise continued growth in stature in his field?
- 5) In similar circumstances, would you recommend his appointment to a post with tenure on a staff of your own?

Quite naturally your reply will be kept confidential, and will be available only to high administrative and faculty officers who, in the last analysis, must pass judgment on my recommendation. Finally let me say that I appreciate just how difficult the writing of such letters can be, but your evaluation will be of the utmost help to the University. To lighten your task just a bit, I am enclosing a vita as well as a list of the publications by Dr. Ravin that are known to me.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth W. Cooper  
Chairman, Department of Biology

KWC:jp  
Enclosures

Publications of Arnold W. Ravin

- 1950 Tryptophane metabolism in Escherichia coli. Proceedings New York Chapter Society of American Bacteriologists. January.
- 1950 Genetic and non-genetic variability in citrate utilization by Aerobacter aerogenes. Genetics 35: 687.
- 1950 "World of Life: A General Biology" (Review). Science 111: 368.
- 1952 Heritable and non-heritable loss of ability by Aerobacter aerogenes to grow adaptively on single carbon sources. Journal of General Microbiology 6: 211.
- 1952 Studies on a non-heritable physiological modification in Aerobacter aerogenes. Experientia VIII: 108. (with Amos Norman, junior author.)
- 1953 The nature of variations affecting bacterial adaptability, in "Adaptation in Microorganisms". Symposium of the Society for General Microbiology. Cambridge University Press 3: 46.
- 1954 On the frequency of autogenic and allogenic transformations in Pneumococcus. Proceedings of the 9th International Congress of Genetics. Part II, Paper No. 197.
- 1954 A quantitative study of autogenic and allogenic transformations in Pneumococcus. Experimental Cell Research 7: 58.
- 1955 "Chemical Specificity in Biological Interactions" (Review). Journal of American Chemical Society 77: 234.
- 1955 Factors affecting the non-independent recovery of capsular and streptomycin-resistant transformants in Pneumococcus. Genetics 40: 591.
- 1955 "Enzymologie" (Review). Journal of American Chemical Society 77: 5770.
- 1955 Infection by viruses and genes. American Scientist 43: 468.
- 1956 The properties of bacterial transforming systems, in "Mutation". Brookhaven Symposia in Biology 8: 33.

Vita of Arnold Warren Ravin

born: August 15, 1921, New York, N. Y.

Degrees:

B.S., College of the City of New York, 1942.  
M.A., Columbia University in the City of New York, 1948.  
Ph.D., Columbia University in the City of New York, 1951 (Sigma Xi).

Appointments:

Tutor, Department of Biology, College of the City of New York, 1948-50.  
Assistant, Department of Zoology, Columbia University, 1950-51.  
Research Fellow, Laboratoire de Génétique, Université de Paris, 1951-53.  
Instructor, Department of Biology, The University of Rochester, 1953-54.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, The University of Rochester, 1954- .

Fellowships:

Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, National Institute of Health, Columbia University, 1949-50.  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship, National Cancer Institute, Université de Paris, 1951-53.

Society Memberships:

Genetics Society of America  
Society for General Microbiology (Great Britain)  
Association for Advancement of Science  
New York Academy of Sciences  
Sigma Xi

Research Fields:

Microbial genetics and adaptation; genetic transformations of bacteria.

Courses of Instruction:

at the College of the City of New York  
General Biology  
General Bacteriology

at Columbia University  
Zoo. 101 - Invertebrate Zoology for Graduate Students  
(laboratory lectures only)

at The University of Rochester  
Bio. 1-2 - General Biology  
Bio. 243 - Adaptation, Biosynthesis, and Gene Action  
Bio. 271 - Advanced Topics in Experimental Biology:  
Infective Heredity in Bacteria  
Bio. 273 - Advanced Laboratory in Experimental Biology:  
Pneumococcal Transformations  
Bio. 289,290 - Seminar in Genetics